

Message Text

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USDOC FOR MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, RP
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: PHILIPPINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

REF: A. STATE 146233, B. 77 MANILA A-272,
C. 77 STATE 310646

1. SUMMARY. PROGRESS ON PHILIPPINE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCEEDING SLOWLY, AWAITING DRAFTING OF MASTER PLAN AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS BY INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE. JAPANESE, BRITISH AND FRENCH COMPANIES HAVE CONTACTED BUTEL REGARDING FEASIBILITY STUDIES. AT THIS TIME BUTEL WILL ACCEPT TECHNICAL SURVEYS AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON GRANT BASIS ONLY. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY INFORMED BY CONTACT AT BUREAU OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS (BUTEL) THAT NO NEW PROJECTS CAN BE APPROVED UNTIL MASTER PLAN IS DRAWN UP AND MAJOR POLICY QUESTIONS INVOLVING TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY ARE RESOLVED. AN INTERAGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, INDUSTRY AND FINANCE, AND THE BUREAU OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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CREATED BY PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTION THREE MONTHS AGO TO STUDY INDUSTRY SITUATION AND FORMULATE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SENSITIVE ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED IT MAY TAKE UP TO ONE YEAR FOR COMMITTEE TO FORMULATE MASTER PLAN AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. AN ESPECIALLY THORNY ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED INVOLVES

EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY. ONE FACTION WHICH FAVORS INTEGRATION OF ALL SYSTEMS UNDER ONE MAJOR OPERATOR, POSSIBLY A GOVERNMENT CORPORATION, IS FACED WITH STRONG RESISTANCE FROM ESTABLISHED PRIVATE FIRMS.

4. ALTHOUGH OVERALL SITUATION STILL FLUID, AT LEAST THREE FIRMS HAVE ALREADY CONTACTED BUTEL. CIT-ALCATEL (FRANCE), SUPPORTED BY FRENCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SUBMITTED A FEASIBILITY STUDY COVERING THE EASTERN MINDANAO REGION LAST YEAR. PLESSY (BRITISH) HAS CONTRACTED EDCOP, A LOCAL FIRM, TO STUDY ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ITS TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SAMAR-LEYTE AREA IN VISAYAS. THE JAPANESE, WITH STANDING OFFER OF AN OECF LOAN, ARE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A FEASIBILITY STUDY BY SEPTEMBER FOR THE NORTHERN LUZON AREA UNDER A JICA GRANT.

5. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FIRMS AND GOP THUS FAR HAVE INTEGRATED ALL PROJECTS LISTED REFTEL A AND DIVIDED THEM INTO REGIONAL PROJECT AREAS.

6. SINCE BUTEL IS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS, THEY WOULD WELCOME PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL SURVEYS AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES IF DONE ON GRANT BASIS ONLY.

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7. PROPOSALS CAN BE SENT DIRECTLY TO GENERAL CEFERINO CARREON, DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, BUTEL BLDG., ROCES AVENUE, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES. MURPHY

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